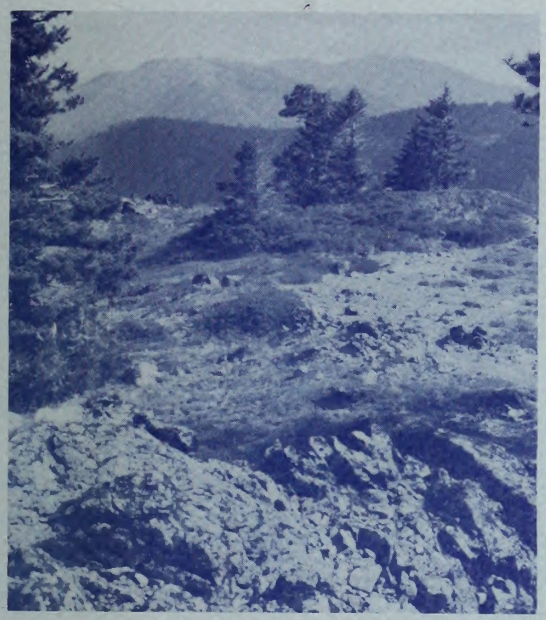
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management

June 1984

Medford District Office
3040 Biddle Road
Medford, Oregon 97504

Plan Amendment and Environmental Assessment for Areas of Critical Environmental Concern



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United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
MEDFORD DISTRICT OFFICE
3040 Biddle Road
Medford, Oregon 97504

June 15, 1984

Dear Concerned Citizen:

Thank you for your interest in our effort to amend the Josephine and Jackson-Klamath Management Framework Plans (MFPs) for Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs). The enclosed environmental assessment addresses alternatives for four potential ACECs in the Bureau of Land Management's Medford District of southwestern Oregon. Environmental analysis for the Eight Dollar Mountain potential ACEC has been postponed for 9-12 months so that alternatives for that area can be more closely coordinated with the U.S. Forest Service's Botanical Interest Area designation for the western portion of Eight Dollar Mountain. Interim management assures that important resources of all potential ACECs are protected pending the designation decision.

The purpose of the environmental assessment is to disclose the probable environmental impacts of designating or not designating the identified areas as ACECs. For each of the four potential ACECs, the assessment analyzes alternatives including the BLM's preferred alternative. We would appreciate your comments on the adequacy and accuracy of the analyses.

Public comments may be sent to the Medford District Office or may be presented at a public meeting. Written comments should be submitted by August 15, 1984, to:

Joe Ross, EA Team Leader
Bureau of Land Management
Medford District Office
3040 Biddle Road
Medford, Oregon 97504

A public meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 11, 1984, at 7:30 p.m. in the BLM's Medford District Office. Bureau of Land Management personnel will be available to answer questions regarding the environmental assessment at that time.

Based on information contained in this environmental assessment, a preliminary finding of no significant impact is presented and concludes that an environmental impact statement is unnecessary and will not be prepared.

If you would like further information about the MFP amendment or environmental analysis process beyond what is presented in this brochure, or at our public meeting, please contact Al Larson or Joe Ross of our planning staff (776-4187).

We appreciate the amount of public involvement to date and encourage a continued interest in the management of public lands.

Sincerely yours,

Hugh R. Shera

Hugh R. Shera
Medford District Manager

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Medford District Office
June 1984

Plan Amendment and Environmental Assessment for Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

William G. Leavell, State Director, Oregon State Office

Hugh R. Shera, District Manager, Medford District Office

Plan Amendment and Environmental Assessment for Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Summary

This environmental assessment analyzes the impacts of designating or not designating four Areas of Critical Environmental Concern in the BLM's Medford District in southwestern Oregon. Alternatives developed through the Bureau planning system and public scoping process are described and analyzed. The alternatives and associated environmental analysis evaluate options for managing, protecting, and enhancing resource values in potential ACECs.

The array of alternatives for each of the four potential ACECs is listed below:

Woodcock Bog
Alternative 1, No Action (Preferred Alternative)
Alternative 2, ACEC Designation — 111 acres

Upper and Lower Table Rocks
Alternative 1, No Action
Alternative 2, ACEC Designation — 1,240 acres (Preferred Alternative)

King Mountain Rock Garden
Alternative 1, No Action
Alternative 2, ACEC Designation — 90 acres (Preferred Alternative)
Alternative 3, ACEC Designation — 155 acres

Foots Creek (South Portion)
Alternative 1, No Action
Alternative 2, Continue Existing Situation with Monitoring (Preferred Alternative)
Alternative 3, ACEC Designation — 1,630 acres

An additional potential ACEC, Eight Dollar Mountain, will be analyzed in a separate environmental assessment within 12 months. Analysis for that area has been delayed so that alternatives for the area can be more closely coordinated with the U.S. Forest Service's Botanical Interest Area designation for the western portion of Eight Dollar Mountain.

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Chapter 1 Introduction

Purpose and Need

The Josephine and Jackson-Klamath Management Framework Plans (MFPs) for the Medford District were completed in 1979 and 1980, respectively. These land use plans did not include decisions regarding the designation of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) as potential ACECs had not yet been identified. Therefore, it is necessary to amend these land use plans to address ACEC designation.

The needs for the proposal to designate ACECs on the BLM-administered lands in the Medford District are to:

1. Identify and protect important natural and cultural resources requiring special management;

2. Provide for other uses in the designated areas, compatible with the protection and enhancement of important natural and cultural resources; and

3. Monitor the preservation of important natural and cultural resources in ACECs and the compatibility of other allowed uses with these resources.

Statutory Authority

In response to several recommendations by the Public Land Law Review Commission, the Congress provided specific language in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) for the identification and protection of areas on the public lands which contain significant natural and cultural resource values. The Congress defined these Areas of Critical Environmental Concern as areas within the public lands where special management attention is needed (when such areas are developed or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historical, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources, or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

The FLPMA also provided that the identification of ACECs be given priority in the "inventory of all public lands and their resources and other values" but that such identification "shall not, of itself, change or prevent change of the management of use of public lands" (Section 201(a)). FLPMA further provided that designation of ACECs be given priority in "the development and revision of land use plans" and that BLM give such areas special management attention (section 202(c)(3)).

In the legislative history of FLPMA, Congress made clear that it viewed ACECs as special places within the public lands. The Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs (Senate Report No. 94-583) said that "management of national resource lands (public lands) is to include" giving special attention to the protection of ACECs for the purpose of ensuring "that the most environmentally important and fragile lands will be given . . . early attention and protection."

The Committee Report also said, "Unlike wilderness areas . . . (ACECs) are not necessarily areas in which no development can occur. Quite often, limited development, when wisely planned and properly managed, can take place in these areas without unduly risking life or safety or permanent damage to historic, cultural, or scenic values or natural systems or processes."

Therefore, the Act (FLPMA), and intent of the Act, set the basic foundation from which to prepare policy and procedures for identifying, designating, and managing ACECs. The August 1980 Final Guidelines for Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (USDI, BLM 1980) are available in the Medford District Office. The revised BLM regulations for land use planning (43 CFR 1610.7-2) May 5, 1982, guide the ACEC designation process, as well as amendments for existing land use plans. Copies of these regulations are also available in the District Office.

Location

The four potential ACECs analyzed in this document (Woodcock Bog, Upper and Lower Table Rocks, King Mountain Rock Garden, and Foots Creek) are located on public land administered by the BLM, Medford District Office, in southwestern Oregon. Figure 1 shows the general location of all potential ACECs in the Medford District.

Planning Process

This document presents and analyzes associated environmental consequences for an amendment to the Josephine and Jackson-Klamath Management Framework Plans for the Medford District. The amendment has been prepared using the Bureau's Planning System. Initial steps of the planning process included identification of issues and development of planning criteria. Issues were identified through public comments and focused on concerns and needs, as well as opportunities for resource use, development and protection. Planning criteria were based on BLM's policy and guidance, applicable law, the results of public participation, and coordination with other federal agencies, state and local governments, and Indian tribes.

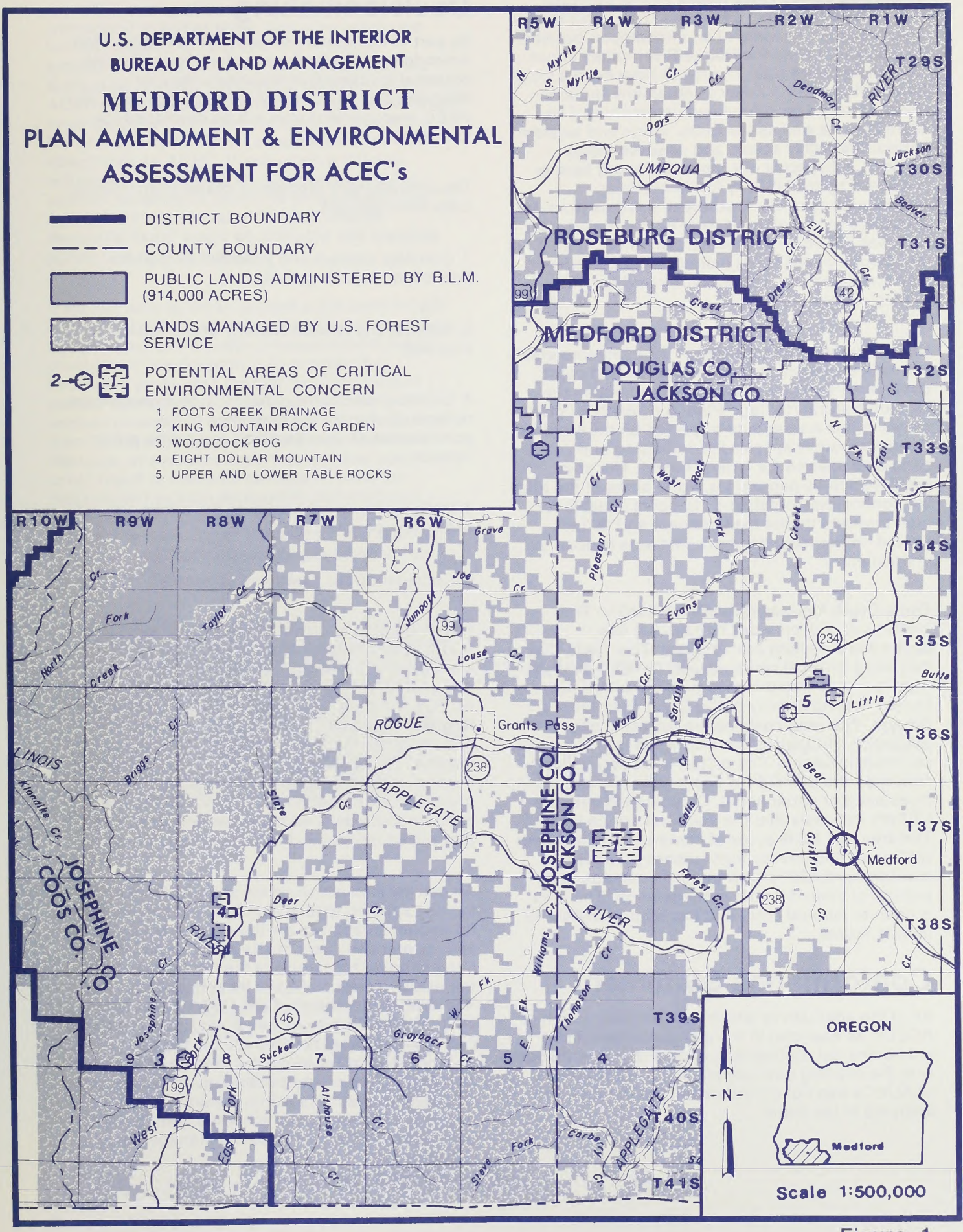
Issues and planning criteria were identified in two earlier Medford District planning reports, dated August of 1981 and March of 1983, and through the public scoping process conducted during March and April of 1983.

Identification of Potential ACECs

Nominations for ACECs in the Medford District were requested from the public and the District's employees. Medford District Planning Report #2 (August, 1981) identified 14 areas nominated for ACEC designation. Subsequently, an additional nomination of Thompson/Williams Creek Valleys was received, two nominations for Little Applegate and Applegate Watershed were withdrawn, and the Upper and Lower Table Rocks were combined into one nomination. These nominations were evaluated to assess their compliance with established criteria (relevance and importance) with those areas meeting the criteria being classified as "potential" ACECs. Five potential ACECs were identified in the Medford District. All but Eight Dollar Mountain are addressed in this document. Environmental analysis for Eight Dollar Mountain has been delayed for 9-12 months so that alternatives for that area can be more closely coordinated with the U.S. Forest Service's Botanical Interest Area designation for the western portion of Eight Dollar Mountain. Interim management for all potential ACECs assures protection of the integrity of the areas' important values pending the designation decision.

A brief description of the outstanding characteristics for each area analyzed in this document follows.

Woodcock Bog — Currently designated as a Research Natural Area, this 111-acre area has ten plant species under review by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for possible listing as threatened or endangered. The area has hanging bogs, Jeffery pine — savannah areas and Port Orford cedar along the streams. The area is currently managed for research and education. The area is open to mineral entry.


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
MEDFORD DISTRICT
PLAN AMENDMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR ACEC's
DISTRICT BOUNDARY
COUNTY BOUNDARY
PUBLIC LANDS ADMINISTERED BY B.L.M. (914,000 ACRES)
LANDS MANAGED BY U.S. FOREST SERVICE
POTENTIAL AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN
1. FOOTS CREEK DRAINAGE
2. KING MOUNTAIN ROCK GARDEN
3. WOODCOCK BOG
4. EIGHT DOLLAR MOUNTAIN
5. UPPER AND LOWER TABLE ROCKS
ROSEBURG DISTRICT
MEDFORD DISTRICT
DOUGLAS CO.
JACKSON CO.
JOSEPHINE CO.
COOS CO.
ROGUE
UMPQUA
APPLEGATE
RIVER
Grants Pass
Medford
R10W
R9W
R8W
R7W
R6W
R5W
R4W
R3W
R2W
R1W
T29S
T30S
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T35S
T36S
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T38S
T39S
T40S
T41S
OREGON
- N -
Medford
Scale 1:500,000

Figure 1

Upper and Lower Table Rocks — The potential ACEC encompasses 1,240 acres. The Table Rocks are erosional remnants of an intracanyon basaltic lava flow that filled the Rogue River Valley about five million years ago. The rocks have been a local landmark since the valley's settlement. Indians used the rocks for refuge and ceremonies. The table tops, as well as the rocks' south and western slopes, are highly scenic and sensitive visual areas. A subspecies of *Limnanthes* found here is proposed by the USFWS for listing as an endangered species. A variety of habitats from dry grassland to vernal pools exist on the mesas. The area has 279 acres of commercial timber land which has limited forest management potential. The area is open to mineral entry and has two mining claims.

King Mountain Rock Garden — The 155-acre area is a high elevation, serpentine soil-related plant community that fills a cell need identified in the Oregon Natural Heritage Plan. A diversity of plants grows in this area with two species on the Medford District sensitive species list, including one candidate species for federal listing. The area provides scenic panoramas. Forty acres of the area are commercial forest land (15 acres suitable for high intensity timber management and 25 for limited timber management). The area is open to mineral entry.

Foots Creek Drainage (South Portion) — The 1,630-acre area provides habitat that has supported a nesting pair of Great Gray Owls. The last siting by local residents was in 1983. Available data indicates that this may be the westernmost known nesting activity of the Great Gray Owl in Oregon. The area contains the largest known population of *Cypripedium montanum* in southwest Oregon. This orchid had been under review by the USFWS for possible listing as threatened or endangered. Consultation with the USFWS indicates that the plant will not be listed. The area has 1,239 acres of commercial forest land (857 acres suitable for high intensity timber management, 322 for low intensity management, and 60 for limited timber management). The area is open to mineral entry and has approximately 15 mining claims.

Conformance Statement

All of the alternatives which include designation of ACECs, as analyzed in the plan amendment and environmental assessment, are not in conformance with the existing land use plans. The designation of ACECs was not considered in the multiple use analyses in the plans.

Decisionmaking

As part of the final Management Framework Plan Amendment decision, areas identified as having potential for special management may be designated as ACECs. Following designation, an ACEC management plan will be developed for each area.

The discretionary process of designation involves a decision that will:

1. Consider present and potential uses of the public land area in question;

2. Address the relative scarcity of the values involved;

3. Consider alternatives that include management options to allocate the resources to the combination of uses that best serves the public interest;

4. Weigh long-term benefits to the public against short-term benefits; and

5. Consider public views and concerns.

Following plan approval, three actions will occur: (1) immediate implementation of those special management prescriptions described for each area designated, (2) publication of the list of designated ACECs and their legal descriptions in the **Federal Register** within two months, and (3) preparation and implementation of activity plans within six months. Those actions included in the immediate implementation of special management prescriptions for each ACEC may point to the need for more detailed management objectives that will be developed in ACEC activity plans.

An activity plan prepared for each ACEC will include specific special management requirements for implementation as on-the-ground actions. The activity plans will vary in size and complexity depending on the nature of the resources within the ACEC. These plans will be prepared by interdisciplinary teams. Each activity plan will include a description of future uses, activities, or management practices that are considered compatible with the purposes of the ACEC as well as a description of any existing incompatible uses, activities, or practices within the area. The activity plan will also include the schedule and details for implementing the area's special management requirements.

An ACEC designation is not a withdrawal. A withdrawal specifies those activities which are limited, subject to valid existing rights. A withdrawal action will only be requested by the Bureau for specific geographic locations within an ACEC when needed to assure the protection of an important environmental resource or protection of life or property for which a particular area was designated an ACEC. If and when a mineral withdrawal is pursued, an appropriate level of mineral assessment would be undertaken. The assessment would insure that any mineral resources found would be analyzed and weighed against any future actions.

If the decision is not to protect a potential ACEC through ACEC designation, that decision will be documented and a public announcement made promptly. If the decision is to provide the necessary protection through another form of special management, the documentation and announcement will include specifics of that other form. If the decision is to allocate an identified resource, in whole or in part, to another use which could result in resource damage or loss, the decision will include all feasible planning and management to prevent, minimize, mitigate, or restore any consequent damage to the resource, and these requirements will be specified in the documentation.

Approval of the plan amendments for ACECs will be subject to final action on any protest that may be filed. Protests must be filed within 30 days of publication of the notice of the amendments' effective date. Protests must conform to the requirements of Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Subpart 1610.5-2 and be filed with the Director of the Bureau of Land Management. Oregon State Director approval of the plan amendments will be documented in a decision record.

Chapter 2
Affected Environment

The Section in Chapter 1 dealing with the selection of potential ACECs summarizes the characteristics of each potential ACEC. Detailed descriptions of the air, soil, water, vegetation, wildlife, social (e.g. recreation, cultural resource, and visual), economic, minerals, and other environmental components can be found in the following publications available for review in the BLM Medford District Office:

1. Jackson-Klamath and Josephine Planning Area Analysis (J/K & J PAA);

2. Jackson-Klamath and Josephine Unit Resource Analysis (J/K & J URA);

3. Final Environmental Statements, Jackson-Klamath and Josephine Sustained Yield Units Ten-Year Timber Management Plans (timber management EISs);

4. Management Framework Plans for the Jackson-Klamath and Josephine Sustained Yield Units (MFPs); and

5. Medford Grazing Management Final Environmental Impact Statement.

Chapters 3 through 6 describe the environmental impacts associated with the alternatives for each area. If a resource would not be affected, no discussion is included.

Chapter 2
Affected Environment

Chapter 3
Woodcock Bog

Figure 2 shows this area.
Two alternatives are analyzed for the Woodcock Bog potential ACEC:
Alternative 1, No Action (Preferred Alternative)
Alternative 2, ACEC Designation (111 acres)

Alternative 1

The preferred alternative is to continue current management of the 111-acre Woodcock Bog Research Natural Area (RNA), in Section 31, T. 39 S., R. 8 W., Willamette Meridian, near Cave Junction, Oregon.

Management guidelines, based on recommendations of the Federal Committee on Ecological Reserve and the Medford District BLM, specifically considered the area's unique flora environment. According to Section II(4.2) of the Directory of RNAs established by the Federal Committee on Ecological Reserve, RNAs must be protected from any influence that could alter or disrupt established ecological and geological processes. The most important criteria in protecting management and use of RNAs is the retention of the area in a condition that maintains and perpetuates those ecological and geological phenomena which the area is intended to exemplify.

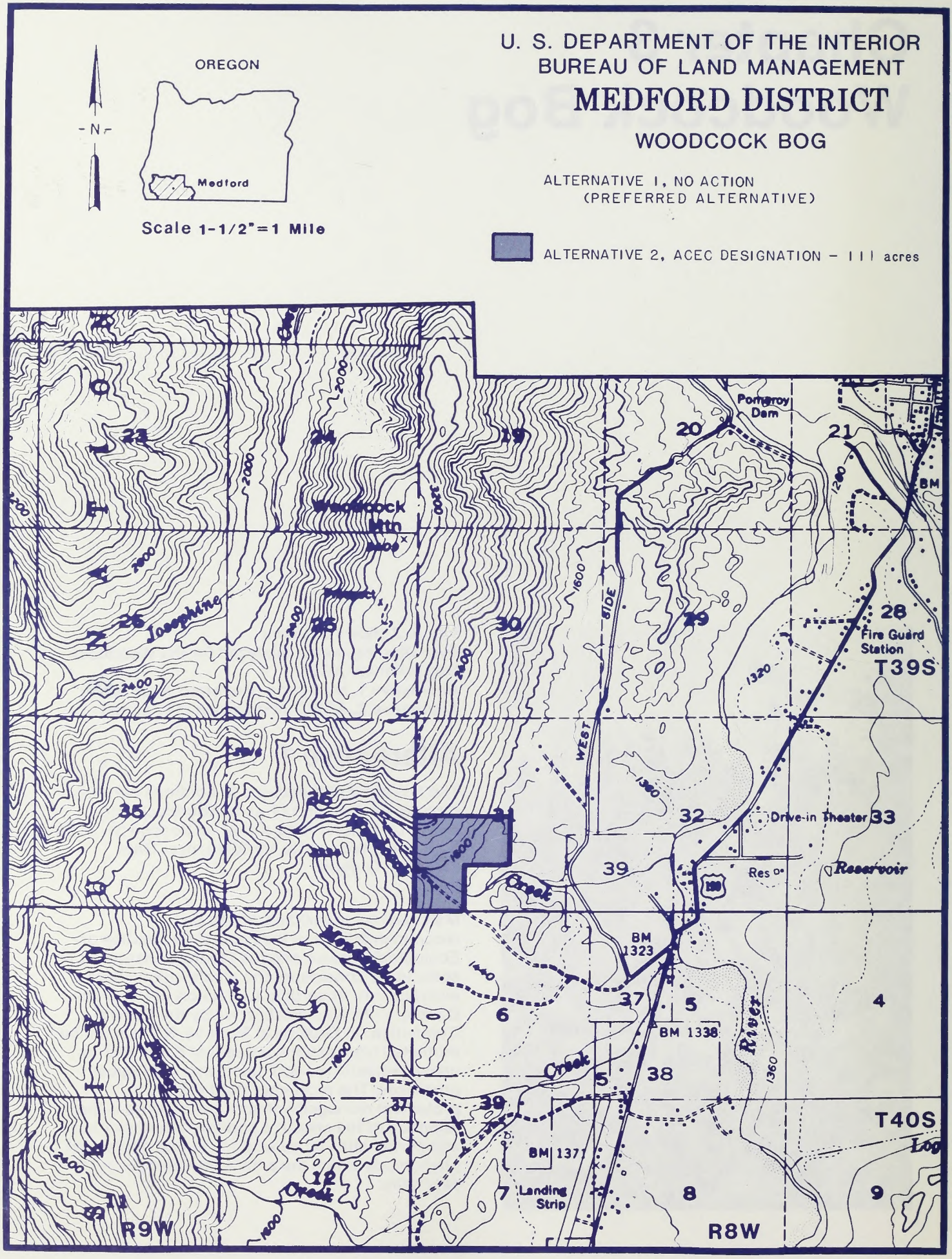

OREGON
Medford
N
Scale 1-1/2"=1 Mile
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
MEDFORD DISTRICT
WOODCOCK BOG
ALTERNATIVE 1, NO ACTION
(PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE)
ALTERNATIVE 2, ACEC DESIGNATION - 111 acres
Pomeroy Dam
Woodcock Mtn.
Josephine
Creek
WEST SIDE
Fire Guard Station
Drive-in Theater
Reservoir
Res
BM 1323
BM 1338
BM 1371
Landing Strip
River
Creek
T39S
T40S
R9W
R8W

Figure 2

Management and general use of RNAs are subject to the restriction that any activity such as logging, grazing, burning, or restocking is prohibited unless it replaces natural processes and contributes to the protection and preservation of the designated feature. The designated feature in the case of Woodcock Bog is its flora community.

More specifically, current management of the Woodcock Bog RNA includes the following guidelines:

1. The area would continue to be used for research and educational activities with such uses being limited to those of a non-destructive nature, i.e. those that do not impair or alter the bog's environment.

2. The area is officially closed to ORV use and would continue as such.

3. At a minimum, annual inspection of the RNA would continue to be conducted to check for abuses, problems, and threats to the RNA's integrity.

4. Special use permits would continue to be issued prior to use of the RNA by scientists or educators for scientific or educational use. Special use permits list rules to ensure that the scientific and educational values of the RNA are not impaired and to assist in BLM coordination and use of the RNA.

5. If trampling problems become significant, access paths would be provided near the main bog to mitigate the impact of foot travel.

6. Fencing of the RNA's boundaries, especially those downslope, would continue to be maintained to exclude domestic animals.

7. A locked gate would continue to be maintained on the Woodcock Mountain road to control motor vehicle access to the bog.

8. The RNA would continue to receive special consideration whenever potential environmentally damaging activities are planned or expected on adjacent lands.

9. Further environmental analysis would be conducted for any proposed activity with potential for damaging the bog's environment.

10. The area would remain open for locatable, leasable and saleable mineral entry. Any mining activities, except casual use, in the area would be preceded by and subject to an approved mining plan of operations in accordance with surface management regulations (43 CFR 3809). Applications for leasable or saleable minerals would be subject to discretionary approval/disapproval upon findings of an environmental analysis.

Impacts

Vegetation

Any surface-disturbing activity (however limited) would have the potential of diverting water and/or disturbing the bog's ecosystem. Such disturbance would likewise have the potential of adversely affecting the bog's botanical values by altering their habitat and possibly eliminating some of its unique plant species. Such impacts would be minimal due to mitigation measures identified as part of current management of the area as a Research Natural Area.

Watershed

Impacts relative to this alternative would essentially be the same as those occurring as a result of current management of the area as an RNA. Present management plans for the tract do not involve any action that might have adverse impacts on the tract.

Social

The area is VRM Class III due to its scenic quality and as such, management action may be seen but not dominate. High sensitivity stemming from use of the Redwood Highway, however, makes this area a candidate for future visual corridor analysis and sequential planning.

Impacts to the area from the casual visitor would be minimal to non-existent. The RNA has indirect access (off well-travelled roads), and the locked gate on the access road to the bog further discourages indiscriminate use.

Increases in use of the bog by researchers, students, and amateur botanists would result in low or negligible impacts because of the following two factors: (1) most researchers, students, and amateur naturalists are sensitive to the values present and would be likely to limit their impact by appropriate means, and (2) management's guidelines and periodic inspections should preclude abuse or misuse of the tract.

Minerals

The area would remain open for locatable, leasable and saleable mineral entry. Mining operations, except casual use, would be subject to the surface management regulations, 43 CFR 3809, requiring an approved plan of operation prior to commencement of any mining operations. Regulatory impacts, to mining activities, would be the same under this alternative as under the existing off-road vehicle closure designation, however, more stringent stipulations may be required to mitigate impacts to additionally identified resources listed in the RNA management guidelines. Access to the subject lands, or adjoining federal lands, may be limited or restricted, thus delaying or preventing exploration or development of those lands for mineral resources. It is expected, due to the small size of the area, that suitable arrangements can be made to bypass any environmentally sensitive area, thus minimizing impacts to the operator or identified resources. It is assumed that if deposits of leasable or saleable minerals are discovered and applied for, and environmental analysis indicates it is in the public interest to develop them, a lease or permit would be issued.

Alternative 2

This alternative proposes designation of Woodcock Bog Research Natural Area (RNA) as an ACEC.

Impacts

This alternative would result in a dual designation of the area for special management since the area currently is a RNA. Dual designation is not necessarily duplicative management since ACEC status is more than simply a recognition designation. Most importantly, ACEC designation holds priority in terms of funding and management commitment, while designation under the RNA system has no special legislative basis for protection. ACEC designation would serve to complement the area's current RNA designation. Designation of this area as an ACEC would constitute a commitment by BLM that the ACEC's special management requirements would control BLM's management program for the area and that no activity incompatible or inconsistent with those requirements shall be undertaken or permitted by BLM. Other BLM administrative designation processes do not necessarily carry this type of commitment.

Given the abstruse but analogous relationship between RNAs and ACECs, management of the bog under this alternative is expected to differ little from current management (Alternative 1). Impacts, therefore, of this alternative would be the same as those under Alternative 1.

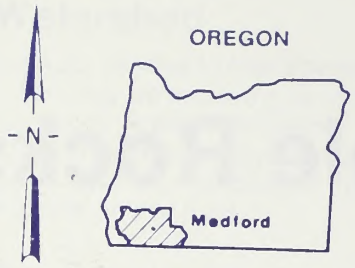
Chapter 4
Upper and Lower Table Rocks

Figure 3 shows this area.
Two alternatives are analyzed for the Table Rocks potential ACEC:
Alternative 1, No Action
Alternative 2, ACEC Designation (1,240 acres) — Preferred Alternative

Alternative 1

The no action alternative is to continue the existing management for the BLM-administered land on the Upper and Lower Table Rocks. There are two mining claims located on the Upper Table Rock. A grazing lease currently exists on the Upper Table Rock. Public use of a sod airstrip on the Lower Table Rock is permitted.

Under the no action alternative, strict adherence to VRM design and contrast guidelines would be maintained for any management action occurring on the proposed lands. The guidelines would minimize contrasts, but not eliminate them as all management actions would not be screened from view by topographic or vegetative features.



Scale 1"=1 Mile

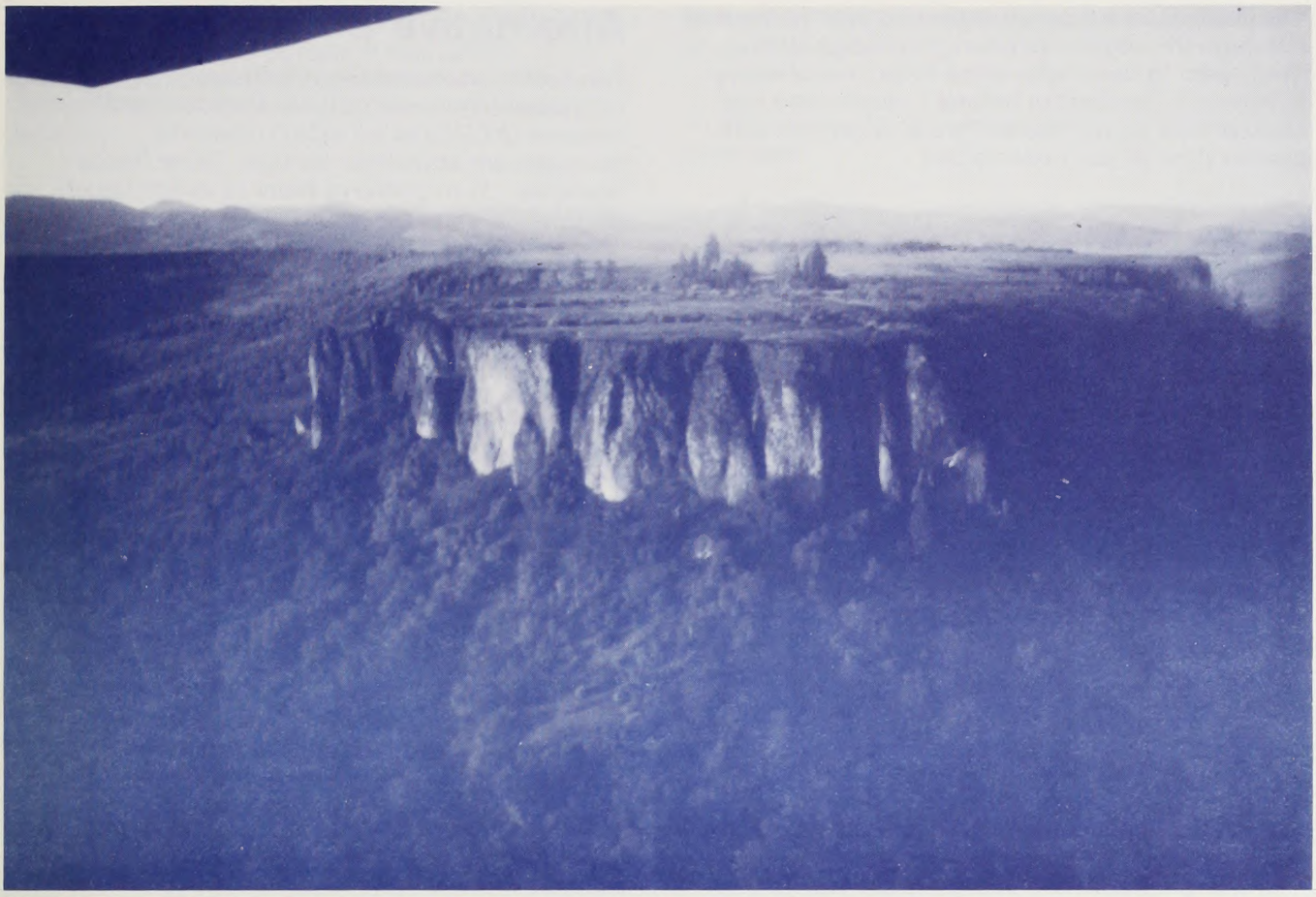
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
MEDFORD DISTRICT
UPPER AND LOWER TABLE ROCKS

ALTERNATIVE 1, NO ACTION

ALTERNATIVE 2, ACEC DESIGNATION
-1240 acres (PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE)

PRIVATE LANDS IDENTIFIED FOR POSSIBLE ACQUISITION UNDER ALTERNATIVE 2

Figure 3



Several of the specific management requirements identified as part of the preferred alternative could be implemented without designation of the area as an ACEC. These requirements could consist of, but are not limited to, the airstrip improvements, Outstanding Natural Area (ONA) designation of the Upper Table Rock, and construction and improvement of trails.

Impacts

Vegetation

The no action alternative would result in greater impacts to the vegetation through mineral exploration, harvesting of forest products, and camping. These impacts cannot be quantified but are expected to be minimal.

Cattle have grazed the Table Rocks yearly in historic times, and the ecosystems present are at least partially the result of grazing.

Watershed

Any quarry development or mining on the Table Rocks that cause surface disturbance could lead to erosion and changes in the hydrologic regime.

Unmanaged grazing by cattle on the Table Rocks would result in soil compaction, reduced infiltration rates, and increased overland flow. Heavy grazing would also result in fecal contamination of surface water.

If a fire occurs, tractor fire lines built on gradients greater than 35 percent would lead to erosion and an increase in peak flows off the Table Rocks.

Social

There is presently a safety hazard for the hiking public from small aircraft using the sod airstrip on the Lower Table Rock. The existing trailhead on Upper Table Rock requires the visiting public to cross a busy county road. The hazard would continue to exist under this alternative.

Should active mining begin, the two existing mining claims on the Upper Table Rock would cause a visual and auditory distractions and conflict with public recreational use.

The Table Rocks have an extensive fire history and although the vegetative changes caused by fire itself seem to have been short lived, use of heavy equipment (tractors) in fireline construction has caused long lasting scars. This is in conflict with preservation of aesthetic values.

Under the no action alternative, contrasts created would degrade the visual resource.

Timber

The harvesting of timber and minor forest products on the Table Rocks would detract from the visual and recreational experience, but the probability of such harvest is negligible.

Minerals

The land would remain open for locatable, leasable and saleable mineral entry.

No impacts are expected for locatable and leasable minerals.

Saleable minerals would benefit under this alternative. Suitable sources of aggregate resources are located within the area. The area is near a large population center, requiring expanding supplies of suitable aggregate resources.

Lands

The population of the Medford area in the Rogue Valley is increasing and urbanizing rapidly. Continued pressure for development of private land on the Upper Table Rock would degrade the resources being managed on the adjacent public lands. This population pressure would probably increase use on the public land of both Table Rocks together and the potential for resource damage would occur.

Alternative 2

The preferred alternative is to designate the 1,240-acre potential area of critical environmental concern (ACEC) as an ACEC. General management objectives for both Table Rocks would be: (1) to preserve them as examples of major ecosystem types and outstanding biological phenomena (vernal pools and patterned ground vegetation); (2) to provide research and educational opportunities for scientists and others in the observation, study, and monitoring of the natural area; and (3) to help preserve a full range of genetic diversity for all proposed threatened or endangered fauna and flora. The following are specific management requirements which would protect and prevent damage to plants, geologic formations and scenic values.

1. Under ACEC designation alone prior to withdrawal, mining operations, except casual use, would be regulated pursuant to surface management regulations (43 CFR 3809), requiring an approved plan prior to commencement of operations. Issuance of leases and permits for leasable and saleable minerals would be discretionary upon environmental review.

2. Withdrawal from locatable, leasable and saleable mineral entry would be pursued. Any existing mining claims would be examined for validity. Valid mining claims would be regulated similar to management guideline No. 1.

3. The purchase of private land, including the mineral estate, in Section 2 and the E½ of Section 3 on Upper Table Rock (960 acres) would be pursued. This action is needed to protect and enhance recreational and visual values on government lands in Sections 1, 34, and 35 (see Figure 3).

4. Additional trail maintenance would reduce erosion due to water. Surfacing would be placed on the existing trails to protect resource values. As a result of their departure from wet and muddy trails in the winter and spring, hikers trample vegetation and compact soil, which is unsightly.

5. Provide interpretive signing to increase awareness and aid in resource value protection.

6. Limit the use of tractors and other heavy equipment in the suppression of wild fires. An agreement would be pursued with the Oregon State Forestry Department for extra fire protection which emphasizes retardant drops and hand fire-line construction.

7. Permit livestock grazing only as a management tool to improve native plant presence. Grazing management may be revised if evaluation determines that specific objectives for enhancement of native vegetation are not being achieved.

8. The BLM-administered land on the Upper Table Rock (840 acres) would be recommended for designation as an outstanding natural area. The primary objective of designating and managing the proposed outstanding natural area would be to provide outdoor recreational use of the area while preserving the resource in its natural condition.

9. The existing airstrip on the Lower Table Rock would be used as long as the use does not materially interfere with government plans and the integrity of the ACEC. No improvements beyond those necessary to meet the minimum safety standards of such an airstrip would be required. The minimum improvement to the airstrip would consist of a warning sign identifying the airstrip and its use, a wind-sock, and annual mowing of vegetation on the airstrip. No steps would be taken to change the present drainage patterns.

10. Timber harvesting, firewood cutting, cone picking, and other vegetation removal would not be permitted.

11. Camping and campfires would not be permitted.

12. A parking area would be evaluated for the Upper Table Rock trailhead on BLM-administered land. The need to eliminate the existing hazard of the public crossing a busy county road would be analyzed in relation to resource degradation expected from increased visitor use.

13. Visitor use would be monitored and, if necessary, controlled to prevent resource degradation. Additional trail construction would be dependent upon the ability to protect important and relevant resource values.

Impacts

Vegetation

No adverse impacts would occur to the Limnanthes floccosa ssp. pumila (meadow foam), a candidate species for Federal listing, category 1, United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Federal Register 45:82480-82569, December 15, 1980; Robert Meinke, Threatened and Endangered Vascular Plants of Oregon: An Illustrated Guide, December 1981, page 204).

Impacts from interpretive efforts and surfacing of the existing trails may result in greater visitor use which could increase trampling of vegetation.

Watershed

Slightly greater visitor use on the Table Rocks could lead to increased soil compaction and decreased infiltration rates. The potential also exists for deterioration of water quality due to fecal coliform increases from livestock. Design features and protective measures inherent with ACEC management would serve to minimize this impact.

Social

The existence of the airstrip on Lower Table Rock detracts from the recreation experience for some users by introducing the sights and sounds of a mechanized culture into an otherwise pristine environment. Improvement of the airstrip would exacerbate the situation. However, the airstrip is an established use, providing recreation for the flying public. The use of the airstrip would probably increase slightly.

It is estimated that casual hikers, as a group, contribute 60 to 80 percent of the use on the Table Rocks. This group is probably neutral to the proposed airstip improvements. The airstrip improvements would improve aircraft safety. There is an element of risk to the hiking public from aircraft using the airstrip, but the interpretive facilities would decrease this risk.

As a result of ACEC and ONA designation, visitor use would slightly increase during the next decade.

Two visual resource management (VRM) classifications exist within the potential ACEC. Sections 34 and 35 lie within VRM Class III boundaries, while Sections 1 and 9 are classified as Class II lands (see Figure 3). The delineation between the Class II and Class III lands was based on viewshed boundaries, with Medford's viewshed receiving the more critical rating (Class II) on the basis of critical viewpoints and viewer population. In Class II, a change may be seen but should not attract attention. Within Class III, changes may be evident in, but should remain subordinate to, the existing characteristic landscape.

Under the preferred alternative, the visual resource as viewed from primary viewpoints on the valley floor would be maintained in the short term and enhanced in the long term.

Improvement of the airstrip on Lower Table Rock would, however, further degrade the visual quality of the scene as viewed from the top of the rock.

Range

Livestock grazing is presently authorized on the public lands of the Upper Table Rock. The 560-acre Upper Table Rock grazing allotment would be subject to 65 animal unit months (AUMs) of livestock grazing between May 1 and May 15. The livestock turnout date may vary by 2 weeks depending on annual weather conditions. No impacts to grazing are expected unless evaluation indicates that a reduction in grazing use is warranted.

Minerals

Under ACEC designation prior to withdrawal, the land would remain open for locatable, leasable and saleable mineral entry. Mining operations, except casual use, would be regulated as under Alternative 1, except an approved plan of operation would be required prior to commencement of operations. Leasable and saleable minerals would be impacted as under Alternative 1, however, more restrictive stipulations may be required to mitigate disturbance to an ACEC.

If withdrawal is pursued and obtained, the area would be closed to locatable, leasable and saleable mineral entry. Existing mining claims would be examined for validity. Mining operations on valid claims would be regulated as under those in designated ACECs requiring an approved plan of operation. Applications for leasable and saleable minerals would not be available under withdrawal. Any leasable or saleable minerals would be unavailable for development and use by the public. It is expected that suitable substitute materials could be developed within 10 miles of the ACEC to partially offset this impact.

Chapter 5
King Mountain Rock Garden

Figure 4 shows this area.
Three alternatives are analyzed for the King Mountain Rock Garden potential ACEC:
Alternative 1, No Action
Alternative 2, ACEC Designation (90 acres) — Preferred Alternative
Alternative 3, ACEC Designation (155 acres)

Alternative 1

The no action alternative is to continue present management of the resources of the King Mountain Rock Garden area. Resource uses would be in accordance with management framework plan (MFP) commitments. Such management would include: (1) management of the 15 acres of high intensity land for timber production, and (2) use of other resources according to MFP decisions.

Impacts

Vegetation

Two sensitive plant species growing in the King Mountain Rock Garden area could inadvertently be damaged and/or destroyed irrevocably through unrestricted activities of sightseers and forest workers.

Fifteen acres of timber could be harvested and intensive forest management practices implemented.

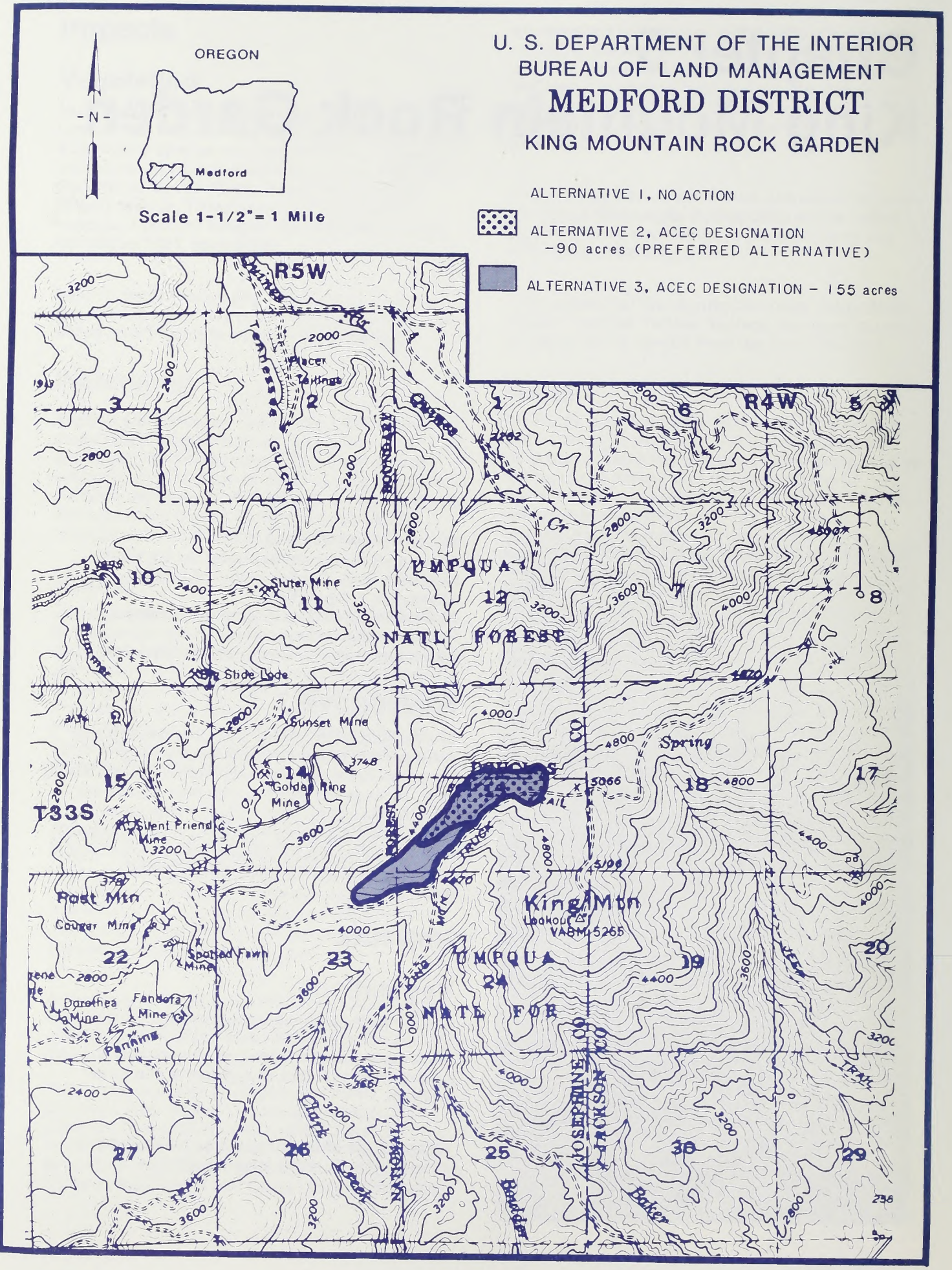

OREGON
N
Medford
Scale 1-1/2"= 1 Mile
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
MEDFORD DISTRICT
KING MOUNTAIN ROCK GARDEN
ALTERNATIVE 1, NO ACTION
ALTERNATIVE 2, ACEC DESIGNATION
-90 acres (PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE)
ALTERNATIVE 3, ACEC DESIGNATION - 155 acres
R5W
R4W
T33S
UMPQUA
NATL FOREST
Tennessee Gulch
Placer Tailings
Sluter Mine
Slide Lode
Sunset Mine
Golden Ring Mine
Silent Friend Mine
Rest Mtn
Courier Mine
Spotted Fawn Mine
Dorothea Mine
Pandora Mine
Pennine
King Mtn
Lookout
VABM 5265
Spring
Clark Creek
Boulder
Baker
JOSEPHINE CO
JACKSON CO
TRAIL
JEEP TRAIL

Figure 4

Soils

Quarries on and near the potential ACEC would be used and developed to facilitate timber land development according to approved Medford District plans for quarries.

Social

Visual resources (botanical, scenic, natural system) could be degraded by casual sightseeing activity and current management activities.

Minerals

The area would remain open for locatable, leasable and saleable mineral entry. Impacts to locatable minerals would not be any greater than those created by existing surface management regulations (43 CFR 3809). Issuance of leases and permits for leasable and saleable minerals would be discretionary upon environmental review.

Alternative 2

Alternative 2 is to designate 90 acres of the proposed King Mountain Rock Garden ACEC as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern, pursue mineral withdrawal of the area and develop a management plan to provide protection to the area's special high elevation, serpentine habitat. The remaining 65 acres nominated for ACEC would not be designated but would be managed according to the current MFP to accommodate timber and mineral production.

Proposed special management would include the following:

1. Post road signs to deter off-road vehicle and ground-disturbing activities with potential for resource degradation.

2. Pursue land use entry withdrawal or restrict land use actions which cause ground disturbance.

3. Any mining operations, except casual use, prior to withdrawal would be regulated pursuant to surface management regulations (43 CFR 3809), requiring an approved plan of operations. Issuance of leases and permits for leasable and saleable minerals would be discretionary upon environmental review.

4. Pursue withdrawal from locatable, leasable and saleable mineral entry. Examine any existing mining claims for validity. Valid mining claims would be regulated pursuant to management guideline No. 3.

5. Prohibit construction of access roads and quarrying within the area.

6. Develop mitigation measures to protect the area's sensitive plant species.

7. Designate trails when/and if the level of visitor use activities has potential for significant damage to ACEC resource values.

8. Restrict ORV use that may adversely impact ACEC resource values.

9. Restrict timber management to salvaging on 11 acres classified for high intensity management.

Impacts

Vegetation

One candidate species for federal listing *Phacelia verna*, and one Medford District sensitive species, *Fritillaria glauca*, have been observed on the potential ACEC. Designation of the area as an ACEC would have a beneficial impact on the species, because harvesting and ground disturbance restrictions accompanying ACEC management would protect these plants.

Designation publicity could increase visitor use of the area and likewise increase the potential for trampling and removal of sensitive plants, as well as disturbance to their habitat. While probable, these adverse impacts are expected to be minor.

Soils

Increased visitor use may cause a slight increase in soil erosion; however, the erosion would have no measurable impact on the fisheries resource nor reduce the productivity of the site.

Wildlife

The presence of people and noise from visitor activities would slightly increase harassment of wildlife.

Social

Visual sensitivity of the area and surrounding lands would increase due to increased visitor use and designation publicity. This increased sensitivity may lead to off-site impacts i.e. restriction of other Bureau activities on adjacent public lands.

No significant cultural resources have been found on the area. Designation of the 90 acres as an ACEC would not impact any cultural resources located at a later date.

Timber

No volume loss is expected in the declared allowable harvest level. Timber on the 15 acres of land classified for high intensity management could be harvested. However, only four acres of timber along the central south boundary of the proposed ACEC could be managed according to intensive forest management practices. Timber management would be limited to salvage logging on the other 11 acres that are located within the boundary of the proposed ACEC.

Timber management activities, i.e. road construction and maintenance, could be restricted due to seasonal use and development restrictions of nearby rock quarries to maintain or enhance social and visual quality of the ACEC.

Minerals

Under ACEC designation prior to withdrawal, mining would be regulated as under Alternative 1 except that operators would be required to operate under an approved plan of operation. Leasable and saleable minerals would be managed as under Alternative 1.

If withdrawal is pursued and obtained, the area would be closed to locatable, leasable and saleable mineral entry. Mining claims filed prior to withdrawal would be examined for validity. Mining operations on valid claims, would be subject to approval pursuant to surface management regulations (43 CFR 3809). Applications for leasable and saleable minerals would not be available.

Recent studies by the U.S. Geological Survey indicate the proposed ACEC is within an area favorable for the occurrence of massive sulfide deposits and those minerals associated with serpentine and ultramafic rocks. A recent reconnaissance mapping and sampling survey by the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries was not conclusive as to the presence of any ore bodies within the subject land. Designation of the ACEC and subsequent withdrawal could reduce the potential mineral development base and any potential economic benefit. Access across the subject lands to adjoining federal lands for mineral exploration could be limited or restricted.

Alternative 3

Designate the entire 155-acre King Mountain Rock Garden potential ACEC as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern. Proposed special management would be the same as those requirements identified under Alternative 2.

Impacts

The impacts of the alternative would be the same as the preferred alternative with two exceptions: (1) timber management activities could be restricted on 15 acres of high intensity forest land and possibly an additional 16 acres that may be returned to the base following an updated timber production capability classification, and (2) withdrawal, if approved, would remove 155 acres from mineral entry and impacts discussed under Alternative 2 would increase proportionately.

Chapter 6
Foots Creek (South Portion)

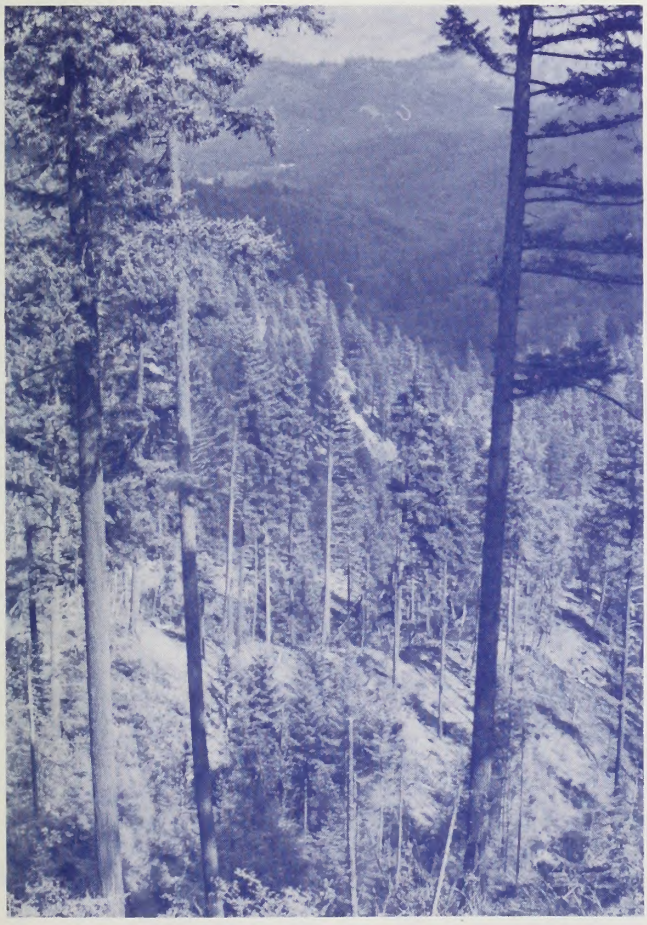


Figure 5 shows this area.
Three alternatives are analyzed for the Foots Creek potential ACEC:
Alternative 1, No Action
Alternative 2, Continue Existing Situation with Monitoring (Preferred Alternative)
Alternative 3, ACEC Designation (1,630 acres)

Alternative 1

The no action alternative is to continue implementing the Management Framework Plan (MFP) for the Jackson-Klamath Sustained Yield Units.

Impacts

Vegetation

Sensitive plants in the area could be inadvertently damaged or destroyed due to the activities of sightseers and forest workers.

Wildlife

Implementation of this alternative would likely cause the Great Gray Owls to desert the nominated area. Proposed protection measures for critical areas are minimal and quite likely to be inadequate.

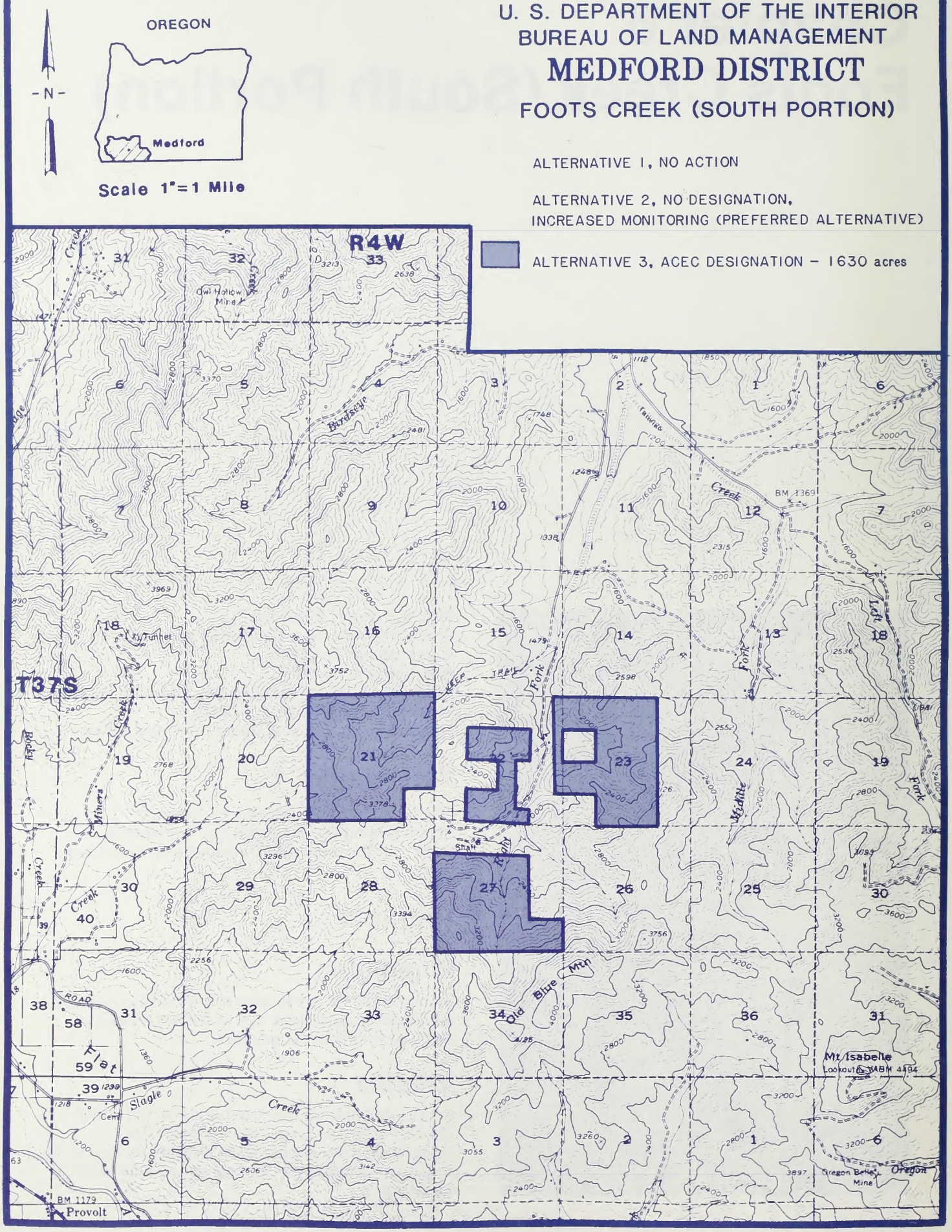

OREGON
Medford
- N -
Scale 1"=1 Mile
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
MEDFORD DISTRICT
FOOTS CREEK (SOUTH PORTION)
ALTERNATIVE 1, NO ACTION
ALTERNATIVE 2, NO DESIGNATION, INCREASED MONITORING (PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE)
ALTERNATIVE 3, ACEC DESIGNATION - 1630 acres
R4W
T37S
Foots Creek
Bear Creek
Slagle Creek
Blue Mtn
Old Blue Mtn
Mt Isabelle
Lookout
Provolt
Oregon Belle Mine
Oregon
Trail
Deep Fork
Left Fork
Middle Fork
Right Fork
Miners Creek
Rocky Point
Shaft
Adit
Tunnel
Owl Hollow Mine
Birdseye
Tailings
BM 1179
BM 1369
ROAD
Flat
Cem

Figure 5

Social

The area would be open to the public. However, one road would be closed by a locked gate.

Timber

The entire area would produce 400 to 420 thousand board feet of timber a year.

Minerals

Under the no action alternative, the land would remain open for locatable, leasable and saleable mineral entry.

Mining claimants would benefit from reduced regulatory requirements. Leases and permits for leasable and saleable minerals would be discretionary upon environmental review.

Alternative 2

The preferred alternative is to continue with the existing management in the south portion of the Foots Creek drainage. This management includes two monitoring programs, one for the Great Gray Owl and the other for *Cypripedium montanum*. The Great Gray Owl is an elusive bird, and there is presently a lack of knowledge concerning its habitat requirements. The Foots Creek drainage will continue to be monitored for activity of the Great Gray Owl. If a nest is located and found to be on public land, the immediate area including roost sites would be protected from timber harvest activities (see Appendix A). Although no nests have been found since 1981, it is assumed for analysis purposes that two nests (a primary and an alternate) and three roost sites would be found. For analysis purposes, this implies that approximately 155 acres would be withdrawn from forest management.

Cypripedium montanum is a candidate species for federal listing, category 2, United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Federal Register 45:82480-82569, December 15, 1980; Robert Meinke, Threatened and Endangered Vascular Plants of Oregon: An Illustrated Guide, December 1981).

The on-going *Cypripedium* monitoring plan would be continued on 30 acres of land (see Appendix B). This ten-year plan would monitor a control unit, a shelterwood unit, and a clearcut/spray unit to determine ecological factors on the plant's life history. The Jacksonville Resource Area coordinator for threatened or endangered plants would have lead responsibility for carrying this plan to completion.

Except for the 30 acres involved with the *Cypripedium montanum* monitoring plan, the 1,630 acres would continue to be managed as non-forest, non-commercial forest, and commercial forest.

Non-forest and non-commercial forest land	-	391 acres
High intensity commercial forest land	-	857 acres
Low intensity commercial forest land	-	322 acres
Limited commercial forest land	-	60 acres
Total		1,630 acres

The transportation system in Sections 21, 22, 23, and 27 (see Figure 5) would require the future construction of 6.6 to 7.6 miles of new road. The new roads would be from 14 to 16 feet wide and have zero to three feet ditches as appropriate. The roads would be surfaced with rock if left open to vehicle traffic after logging is completed.

Impacts

Vegetation

Additional limited plant populations could be lost if, on a case-by-case basis, the decision was made to either include them in future active study plots, which would be clearcut and/or sprayed with herbicide, or manage only the timber resources and ignore the new populations.

Major plant populations would be protected, pending completion of the study.

Potential habitat, not containing plant populations at present, would continue to be impacted.

Wildlife

A basic assumption for all alternatives is that the owls continue to use the nominated area after the recent timber harvest.

With little existing data on basic life history requirements of Great Gray Owls in western Oregon, this alternative does afford some protection to the owls' critical habitat areas, and does allow for basic data collection. Therefore, the protection measures may sufficiently provide for, but cannot ensure, perpetuation of the owls in the nominated area.

Social

Full road closure from March through July would restrict vehicular use of some areas by the public.

Timber

It is assumed for analysis purposes that two nest and three roost sites of the Great Gray Owl would be located. All five sites would be protected by establishing a ten chain radius, no-entry buffer around each of them. Five no-entry buffers, at 31 acres a buffer, equals 155 acres withdrawn from forest management (assuming all land withdrawn is high intensity land). This withdrawal would reduce the District's allowable cut by 60 to 75 thousand board feet a year. A seasonal restriction during the nesting period would limit logging activities, hauling, and road construction to winter months on remaining timber harvest areas within one-half mile of an occupied nest.

Minerals

Impacts under this alternative would be the same as those under Alternative 1.

Alternative 3

This alternative is to designate the 1,630-acre area as an ACEC. The following are interim management requirements which, pending further research, would protect and prevent damage to the habitat of *Cypripedium montanum* and the Great Gray Owl. The interim requirements are based on incomplete information concerning the habitat requirements of the plant and owl.

1. Conduct an intensive survey for *Cypripedium* on the 1,630 acres.

2. Temporarily defer any logging in every inventoried acre with one or more *Cypripedium* plants. This interim status may be removed or become final depending on the results of the *Cypripedium* study (see Appendix B) and the decision by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on threatened or endangered status of the plant. It is assumed for analysis purposes that every acre would have one or more inventoried plants and would be withdrawn in the interim.

3. Under ACEC designation prior to withdrawal, mining operations, except casual use, would be regulated pursuant to surface management regulations (43 CFR 3809), requiring an approved plan of operation. Leases and permits for leasable and saleable minerals would be discretionary upon environmental review.

4. Withdrawal from locatable, leasable and saleable mineral entry would be pursued. Existing mining claims would be examined for validity. Valid claims would be regulated according to management guideline No. 3. Applications for leasable and saleable minerals would not be available.

5. Develop and conduct a study to better understand the habitat requirements critical to existence of the Great Gray Owl. The goal is to identify management activities compatible with the owls' habitat requirements. The study period could range from three to five years.

6. Temporarily defer any logging on the entire 1,630 acres pending the results of the Great Gray Owl study. This deferral would include high intensity timber management such as road development, logging, and site preparation, except on the present Foots Creek timber sale where site preparation and planting would be allowed to continue.

Impacts

Vegetation

Existing populations of *Cypripedium montanum* and *C. fasciculatum*, located outside of the present monitor study plots, would be protected and maintained. Potential habitat would be maintained also.

Integrity of the existing *C. montanum* monitoring study would continue. Some limited populations on the study plots would possibly be lost (Reference monitoring study plan, Appendix B).

Wildlife

Assuming that the presence of the owls indicates that all biological needs are being met, this alternative would have a high probability of ensuring that actions on BLM-administered lands would not lead to the demise of the Great Gray Owls in the nominated area.

Social

Full road closure of the area would restrict its use by the public.

Timber

It is assumed for analysis purposes that the entire area would be withdrawn from timber management. This would reduce potential timber harvest of the area by 400 to 420 thousand board feet a year.

Minerals

Under ACEC designation prior to withdrawal, the land will remain open for locatable, leasable and saleable mineral entry. Mining operations would be subject to plan approval, pursuant to surface management regulations (43 CFR 3809). Leases and permits for leasable and saleable minerals would be discretionary upon environmental review. Additional stipulations may be required to prevent disturbance to the ACEC.

If withdrawal is obtained, the area would be closed to locatable, leasable and saleable mineral entry. Claims would be subject to validity examination. Valid claims would be regulated according to management guideline No. 3 requiring additional stipulations to prevent disturbance to the ACEC. Unclaimed land containing known placer gold deposits, of unknown economic value, would be precluded from mineral entry. Applications for leasable and saleable minerals would be rejected. Access to existing claims or adjoining federal land for exploration and/or development could be limited or restricted across the designated area.

Chapter 7
Coordination, Consistency, and Public Participation

The BLM planning system is essentially a decisionmaking process that uses public input and resource information.

Land use objectives and rationale for each resource use category relating to the ACEC management program were developed and incorporated into a proposed amendment to the Josephine and Jackson-Klamath Management Framework Plans (MFPs). Specific MFP recommendations relating to the ACEC program, with some modification to reflect public input, were used as a basis for developing the alternatives.

Prior to the preparation of this amendment and EA, the Medford District consulted and coordinated planning efforts with the public during the Management Framework Plan process and the identification phase of the Bureau's ACEC program. These early efforts were widely advertised in an attempt to reach affected publics. Also contacted during these phases were local governments, as well as state and federal agencies.

As part of this consultation and coordination process, public planning meetings were held to identify significant problems and issues to be addressed during the planning.

In April 1983, a public meeting was held in the Medford District Office to gather input concerning the district's land use plan amendment. This effort provided information which helped identify potential issues and public concerns.

Consistency With Other Resource Plans

All BLM planning and major actions are coordinated with affected state agencies. BLM planning is also coordinated with county land use plans and any natural resource programs or policies.

The Intergovernmental Relations Division for the State of Oregon acts as a clearinghouse for the various state agencies. All BLM planning and major actions are coordinated through this state clearinghouse. Planning is also coordinated with county commissioners and/or county planning commissions.

Under Oregon Senate Bill 100, all counties and cities in Oregon are required to develop and adopt comprehensive plans and land use controls consistent with statewide planning goals and guidelines developed by the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC). The Douglas County and Jackson County Comprehensive Land Use Plans have been accepted by LCDC. Plans for Coos, Curry, Josephine, and Klamath counties have not yet been acknowledged (accepted) by LCDC. All the alternatives are consistent with the adopted comprehensive plans and LCDC goals.

There are no known conflicts with Indian tribal lands, resources, or values which are to be protected under the Native American Religious Freedoms Act or any treaties covering ceded lands.

Ongoing Public Participation

The public will have a continuing opportunity to participate in the amendment/EA process. Written comments are requested from those reviewing this document. Oral comments will be accepted at the public meeting.

Complete records of public involvement activities, correspondence, and results are located in the Public Participation Record on file at the Medford District Office.

Chapter 8 List of Preparers

While individuals have primary responsibility for providing analysis for an EA, the document is an interdisciplinary team effort. In addition, internal review of the document occurs throughout preparation. Specialists at the District and State Office levels of the Bureau both review the analysis and supply information. Contributions by individual preparers may be subject to revision by other BLM specialists and by management during the internal review process.

		Primary Responsibility	
Name	**Title**	**Subject**	**Area/s[1]**
George Arnold	Wildlife Biologist	Prime or Unique Farmlands, Wildlife, Grazing, Fisheries, T and E Animals	FC
Dana Collins	Engineer	Lands	FC
Matt Craddock	Realty Specialist	Lands	KM
Mel Crockett	Forester	Timber Resources	WB
Lyman Deich	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Sensitive Plants	WB,FC
Jeff Dose	Fisheries Biologist	Wildlife, Fisheries	KM
Jim Dougall	Area Silviculturist	Silviculture	KM
Jim Harper	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife	KM
Ted Hass	Soil Scientist	Soils, Water, Visual Resources	WB
Kathy Helm	Writer/Editor	EA Preparation	WB,KM
Doug Henry	Forest Manager	Timber, Wilderness, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Visual Resources	FC
Mark Hermeston	Geologist	Minerals	WB,TR, KM,FC
Jerry Hubbard	Soil Scientist	Soils	KM
John Ifft	Assistant Area Manager	Safety	TR
Al Larson	Planning Coordinator	Coordination	
Jim Leffmann	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation, Visual Resources	WB,TR
Laurie Lindell	Hydrologist	Hydrology	TR

Name	Title	Primary Responsibility: Subject	Area/s[1]
Cliff Oakley	Wildlife Biologist	T and E Animals, Floodplains, Wetlands, and Riparian Areas, Wilderness, Area of Critical Environmental Concern, Prime/Unique Farmland, Wild and Scenic River, Grazing	WB
Jerry Pringle	Realty Specialist	Lands	TR
Rick Prusz	Plans Forester	T and E Plants	FC
Jim Randall	Natural Resource Specialist	Wild and Scenic Rivers, Wilderness, Cultural, Historical or Paleontogical Resources, Prime or Unique Farmlands, Range (grazing), Visual, Floodplains and Wetlands, Soils, Water Quality, T & E Animals, Wildlife, Fisheries, Air	TR
Dave Reed	Forest Manager	Timber	KM
Joe Ross	Environmental Specialist	Team Leader	WB,TR, KM,FC
Joan Seevers	District Botanist	T and E Plants	TR,KM
Verlin Smith	Assistant Area Manager	Area Coordination	KM
Wally Swanson	Engineer	Roads	KM
Ken Van Etten	Soil Scientist	Floodplains and Wetlands, Air, Soils, Water	FC
Mike Walker	Writer/Editor	EA Preparation	TR,FC

[1] Key to areas: WB - Woodcock Bog, TR - Upper and Lower Table Rocks, KM - King Mountain Rock Garden, FC - Foots Creek (south portion).

Chapter 9 List of Agencies, Organizations, and Persons to Whom Copies of the Assessment Are Sent

Federal Agencies

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Department of Agriculture
  Forest Service
  Soil Conservation Service
Department of Defense
  U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Department of the Interior
  Fish and Wildlife Service
  Geological Survey
  National Park Service
  Bureau of Mines
  Bureau of Reclamation
Environmental Protection Agency

State and Local Government

Coos, Curry, Douglas, Jackson, Josephine and Klamath County Planning Commissions
Oregon State Clearinghouse
Oregon State Historic Preservation Officer
Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

Interest Groups

American Fisheries Society
American Mining Congress
Audobon Society
California Nickel Corporation
Deer Creek Valley Natural Resources Conservation Association
Experimental Aircraft Association
Galice Mining Association
Industrial Forestry Association
Izaak Walton League
Jackson County Cattlemen's Association
National Wildlife Federation
Native Plant Society of Oregon
Natural Resources Defense Council
Nature Conservancy
Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies
Northwest Mineral Prospectors Club
Northwest Mining Association
Oregon Cattlemen's Association
Oregon Council of Rock and Mineral Clubs
Oregon Environmental Council
Oregon Natural Heritage Program
Oregon Natural Resources Council
Pan Artic Exploration, Inc.
Public Lands Council
Selma Area Miners
Sierra Club
Society for Range Management
Southern Oregon Resource Alliance (SORA)
Southern Oregon Timber Industries Association (SOTIA)
Threatened and Endangered Little Applegate Valley (TELAV)
U.S. Nickel Corporation
Waldo Mining District
Wilderness Society
Wild Horse Organized Assistance
Wildlife Management Institute
Wildlife Society, Oregon Chapter

Approximately 150 other individuals and organizations.

Copies of this environmental assessment will be available for public inspection at the following BLM offices:

Washington Office of Public Affairs
18th and C Streets
Washington, DC 20240
Phone (202) 343-5717

Oregon State Public Affairs Office
825 N.E. Multnomah
P.O. Box 2965
Portland, Oregon 97208
Phone (503) 231-6277

Medford District Office
3040 Biddle Road
Medford, Oregon 97504
Phone (503) 776-4174
FTS 424-4174

Reading copies will be placed in the following libraries: Portland State University, Portland; Oregon State University, Corvallis; University of Oregon, Eugene; Southern Oregon State College, Ashland; Oregon Institute of Technology, Klamath Falls; Rogue Community College, Grants Pass; and the Coos, Curry, Douglas, Jackson, Josephine and Klamath County libraries.

Chapter 3 List of Agencies, Organizations, and Persons to Whom Copies of the Assessment Are Sent

Appendix A

Foots Creek Great Gray Owl Monitoring Program

I. Owls Called

Owls would be called for from March through April. This involves a BLM biologist making the call to lure the owl into view.

II. Owls Found

Inventories would occur if owls are found.
A. Nest and roost sites would be located.
B. Breeding record would be established.
C. Data on the vegetative structure of roost and nest sites would be obtained.
D. Behavioral data would be obtained (as time permits).

III. Owls Not Found

Inventories would occur if owls are not found.
A. As time permits, ground search for indications of owls would be conducted.
B. Call again during July and August when young are most vocal.

IV. Protective Measures

Several protective measures would be implemented if owls are found.
A. A ten chain, no entry buffer would be established around nest and roost site(s).
B. Seasonal restriction would be established on activities that could disturb nesting success from March through August.
C. Existing meadow habitat on BLM-administered land within a one mile radius of the nest site(s) would not be degraded.

Great Gray Owl

Appendix B

Foots Creek *Cypripedium Montanum* Monitoring Plan

At present, two plant species, which are being reviewed as threatened or endangered (T or E) candidates, have been located and identified in the proposed Foots Creek area of critical environmental concern (ACEC). They are both in the orchid family (Orchidaceae): *Cypripedium montanum*, under Federal review, and *Cypripedium fasciculatum*, under state review.

Current protective measures have included: Consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the buy-back and set-aside of approximately 30 acres of the Foots Creek timber sale containing the heaviest population concentrations, and the initiation of a ten-year study to monitor and evaluate the impacts of timber management practices on these taxon (Reference attached monitoring plan). These measures will be carried out regardless of whether or not the potential ACEC becomes a designated ACEC. The major difference in management strategy which should occur if the ACEC proposal is approved, is that the monitoring study area should be withdrawn from mineral entry.

Of more importance would be the possibility that *Cypripedium montanum* would be upgraded from a Federal candidate to an officially listed taxon. Additional protective measures, such as closure to mineral entry, grazing, and other potential disturbances, would be necessary, as well as the preparation of an extensive management and rehabilitation plan. These actions would apply to all of the populations on the District, not just Foots Creek. *Cypripedium fasciculatum* many times occurs with *Cypripedium montanum* and receives the same protective measures.

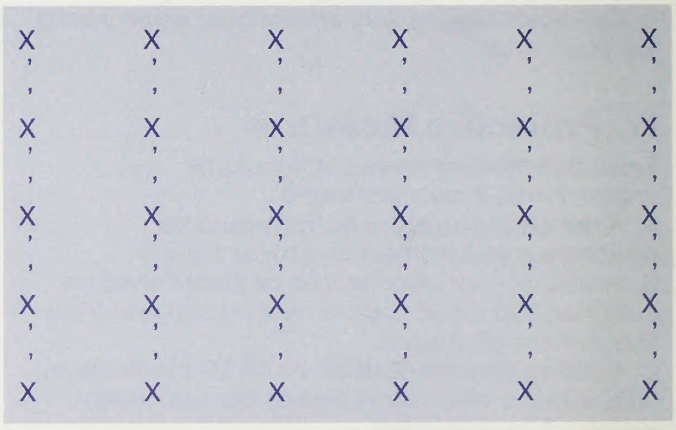
Monitoring Plan for Cypripedium montanum on the Foots Creek Timber Sale

The purpose of this study is to determine some ecological factors on the life history of *Cypripedium montanum* and to determine the effects of intensive forest management on this taxon. *Cypripedium montanum*, a member of the orchidaceal family, is currently a species under review by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (December 15, 1980). Bureau policy, as outlined in Instruction Memo No. 79-64, is to protect, to conserve and to manage for these sensitive species. The Foots Creek timber sale contains one of the largest known populations of this species in the State of Oregon. Complying with P.L. 93-103 and Bureau Policy, the Jacksonville Resource Area of the Medford District consulted with U.S.F.W.S. It was determined that the Jacksonville Resource Area would purchase back 30 acres of the Foots Creek timber sale to maintain a population of the species as a control unit and conduct a ten year study starting prior to the time of timber harvest to determine if this taxon can survive and will re-establish in areas which have received intensive forest management practices.

Monitoring Plan:

Three Acres to monitor:
1. Control Unit
2. Shelterwood Unit
3. Clearcut and Spray Unit

Within each of these areas establish three permanent plots. Each plot will have 30 sample points for a total of 90 sample points per treatment. Each sample point will be 1/250 acre and will be located 1 chain apart.



General Procedure:

A. Establish a bearing tree for each plot and locate plots on aerial photos. Attempt to locate plots on similar slope and aspect but with a bias toward areas containing large number of plants.

B. Survey for:
Presence = Yes / No
Frequency = Actual number of plants

C. Alternate samples include:

1. Associated Species

Trees
Shrubs
Forbs and grasses

2. % Cover

1 = 00 - 05%
2 = 05 - 25%
3 = 25 - 50%
4 = 50 - 75%
5 = 75 - 95%
6 = 95 - 100%

D. Survey each spring during flowering time for the above. Survey 1/10 of the sub-plots each fall for mature fruit.

E. During the spring survey observe for:
1. Pollinators
2. How soon after flowering fruits mature
3. Mode of seed dissemination
4. In areas that produce new plants, record important ecological data —e.g.
Amount of light
Percent Slope
Ground Disturbance
Litter Cover

5. If possible, determine how many years for a plant to mature and produce fruit.

F. Contact Southern Oregon State College, Biology Department, to see if they have any students who could work on collecting this information for practicum credit. This would be under Resource Area supervision.

Preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

Plan Amendment for Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
USDI — Bureau of Land Management, Medford District Office

Finding of No Significant Impact

The Bureau of Land Management, Medford District, has analyzed various alternatives for designation of four Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs). The alternatives and associated design features are described in the attached environmental assessment (EA) numbered OR110-84-28, made available for public review on June 15, 1984. This environmental assessment is hereby incorporated by reference and attached. Design features and special management prescriptions identified in the attached EA would assure that no significant adverse impacts would occur to the human environment. No other environmental documents specifically relate to this action or the affects.

Under the designation and/or preferred alternatives for each area, significant impacts on the quality of the human environment would not occur, based upon the following considerations of context and intensity:

a) Analysis indicated no significant impacts on society as a whole, the affected region, the affected interests, or the locality.

b) Public health or safety would not be significantly affected.

c) There are no floodplains, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, prime or unique farmlands, or paleontological resources within the areas.

d) The designation and/or preferred alternatives are not related to other actions with potential for cumulatively significant impacts to the important and relevant resource values for which the potential ACECs were identified.

e) Cultural resources on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places would not be affected.

f) The designation and/or preferred alternatives would not significantly affect endangered or threatened species or their habitat determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

g) The coastal zone would not be affected.

h) The designation and/or preferred alternatives do not violate Federal, state, and local laws requirements imposed for environmental protection.

i) Adverse impacts identified are minimal and of short duration. Continued monitoring would ensure that no significant adverse impacts occur. As needed, appropriate management would be instituted to protect important natural and cultural resource values.

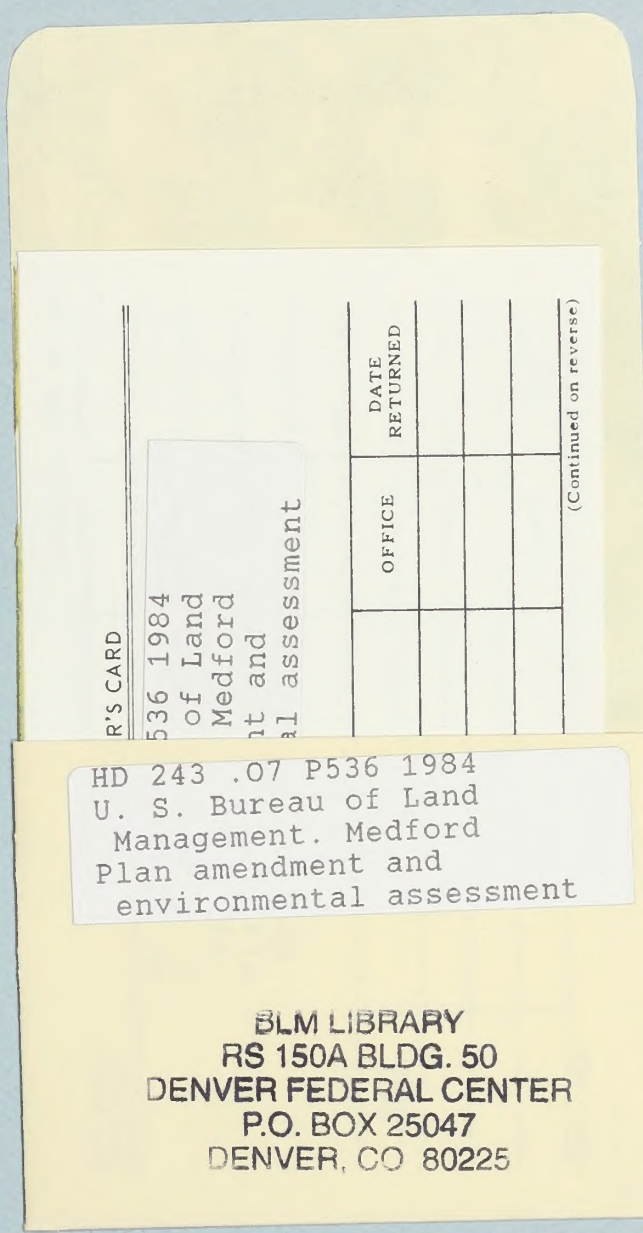
Adoption of alternatives resulting in non-designation of the Table Rocks and King Mountain areas could preclude special management attention to adequately protect important and relevant resource values. A potential for significant adverse impacts could develop in those areas should changing demands on the resources occur and an emphasis on commodity production (e.g. timber or minerals) result in multiple use trade-offs at the expense of those important and relevant resource values for which the potential ACECs were identified.

FONSI Determination

On the basis of the information contained in the EA and all other information available to me as is summarized above, it is my determination that none of the alternatives analyzed constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is unnecessary and will not be prepared.

.....
District Manager

.....
Date



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MEDFORD DISTRICT OFFICE
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